

Results Not Disclosed

Johnson Gets Report On Nuclear Policies

By Howard Margolis
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President Johnson took another opportunity yesterday to warn of the danger of the spread of nuclear weapons. But he kept to himself what new or strengthened policies, if any, he may have in mind to deal with the problem.

Press photographers were invited into the Cabinet Room of the White House to record a meeting with the members of the Gilpatric Committee, which the President established last fall to review the Government's anti-proliferation policies.

Vice President Humphrey and most members of the National Security Council were with the President to receive the Committee's report. But a statement issued in the President's name after the meeting avoided even mentioning that the report had been made, or that the Committee's work is now done.

In the statement the President thanked the Committee for its advice. He warned again that "the future of the world will be shaped in no small measure by what we do now in the face of the complex and difficult problems posed by the spread of nuclear weapons."

But he said nothing substantive, and those attending the meeting were given strong instructions to keep silent about the nature of whatever recommendations were made.

All of this leaves clear what was already known: that the Administration is worried about the problem, and about what the world might be like if the day comes when every country that can afford it starts stockpiling its own nuclear bombs.

But it leaves unclear not only what the Administration proposes to do about it, but even whether the Administration has any new ideas on what to do about it.

The secrecy surrounding the report could reflect a desire to prevent premature disclosure of new and possibly controversial policies in a particularly delicate area of national security. Or it could merely cover a failure of the Committee to produce a set of recommendations of any real consequence.

It is known that there have been differences of opinion within the Government both on policies affecting proliferation of nuclear weapons, and on whether those policies that are being pursued are being pushed as strongly as they could, or should be.

Such differences have existed on the urgency of pushing for a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing; on the effect that various forms of peaceful exploitation of atomic energy might have on proliferation tendencies; on the effect of the proposed multilateral nuclear force for NATO; on degree and form of military assistance and guarantees that might most usefully be given to allies and neutrals threatened by powers with access to nuclear weapons; on the feasibility and wisdom of various ways to seek to restrain international trade in materials and equipment useful in the development of nuclear weapons; and on half a dozen other issues.

There have also been differences on more general questions: even on how urgent the problem is, compared to other national security problems; and on the division of responsibilities within the Government for dealing with the problem.

The Gilpatric Committee was set up last fall, after the Chinese nuclear detonation caused the Administration to

think about its anti-proliferation efforts with a new sense of urgency.

The chairman was Roswell L. Gilpatric, who, until a year ago had served as Deputy Secretary of Defense under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. The Committee's membership reflects a typical selection of established figures, many of whom have served Republican as well as Democratic Administrations. It is assumed that the Committee was expected to play a useful role in the President's efforts to establish policy in this area, and to sell these policies, when need be, to Congress and to the public. Its staff was drawn from inside the Government.

In addition to Gilpatric, the committee included:

George Kistiakowsky, science adviser to President Eisenhower; James A. Perkins, president of Cornell University; Arthur K. Watson, chairman of the board, IBM World Trade Corporation; William S. Webster, president of New England Electrical System; Herbert York, former director of defense research and engineering; Allen W. Dulles, former CIA chief; Arthur H. Dean, former chief delegate to the Geneva disarmament conference; Gen. Alfred Gruenther, former NATO commander; and John J. McCloy, a frequent adviser to postwar Administrations.